

# RED CROSS NEWSLETTER



Vanuatu Red Cross Society

January – March 2021

Issue 1



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## VRCS in communities to raise alarm on Covid19.

As the pandemic continues to rise in many countries around the world including around Pacific Countries, Vanuatu stepped up by having in place its COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan aims at Preventing importation of cases from affected countries • Slow and stop transmission, prevent outbreaks and delay spread • Provide optimized care for all patients, especially the seriously ill • Minimize the impact of the epidemic on health systems, social services and economic activity

As part of its auxiliary role, Vanuatu Red Cross Society has been working closely with Ministry of Health through Shefa Provincial health authority to develop Educational Information Communication materials and raising awareness in Communities.

With the support of Qatar Red Cross, Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF), health Team were deployed in the 6 provincial outer islands to reach out to remote communities by educating them about the newly deadly diseases, and how people can protect themselves from getting the virus; the awareness was highlighted with emphasis on keeping the handwashing practices. As access to water is another identified challenge that varies from one island to another; however communities were encouraged to use existing and no cost local resources to support them in the establishment of handwashing stations build in main centres , across the country.



A Tannese mother learned the 8 steps on how to better wash hands



Volunteers cutting bamboos to build hand-

**Appointed as VRCS INTERIM SECRETARY GENERAL— Mr DICKINSON TEVI**



CONGRATULATION Mr TEVI!

Originated from Pentecost Island—Penama Province, Mr Tevi has great experiences in Financial management and he joined Red Cross in 2013 since then, he has taken up various roles within the National Society as :

*Finance Officer - French Red Cros*

*Resource Mobilization Officer - VRCS*

*Communication Officer –VRCS*

Currently, he is also the Organizational Development Coordinator. Mr Tevi took over the reign of the Society at the beginning of this year, 2021, when the contract of Former Secretary General Madam Jacqueline Degaille ended in January 6th 2021. He also plays key roles as Government Liaison Officer, Assistant Secretary General, Assistant Controller during VRCS TC Harold operations.

THANK YOU Mme DEGAILLANDE!

However, it is never too late to acknowledge the services provided by Mme Degaille who joined Vanuatu Red Cross Society in 2008. She spent 13 years of service managing the operations of the Society, with a lot of engagement , passion, dedica-



# OPERATIONS

## HEADQUARTER



Vehicles donated by the Government

Another milestone for Branch developments when the Government of Japan in Vanuatu, under Japan's Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Project (GJP) donated 2 vehicles to support Red Cross Branches of Sanma and Penama Provinces to boost the emergency response capabilities of VRCS for the benefit of communities.



MOU signed between Save the Children,

As the leading Humanitarian organization, working together with partners like Save the Children, the partnership will assist VRCS to build and strengthen its capacity to reach out effectively during disasters; also it is a way to leverage the expertise that each organization has and ultimately the goal to be effective in what respective organizations are doing with communities. The signing was between VRCS Interim Secretary General Mr Dickinson Tevi and Save the Children Country Director Luke Ebbs .



5 Solomon Islanders assisted by VRCS

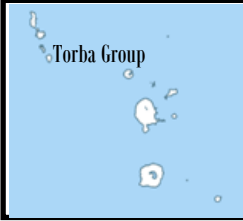
In March, in collaboration with Solomon island Red Cross, 5 rescued Solomon islanders were assisted with hygiene kits and clothing. 5 men including a young boy of 15 years are from Reef Island from Temotu Province in Solomon Islands. Stranded in Port Vila for almost a month awaiting to be repatriated, they were able to be reconnected with their families through phones call services provided by VRCS.



Group work activity presentation by staffs

It was the first time ever for the National Society to hold its staffs retreat this year 2021. The theme was "Reflection and Moving Forward" that enabled staffs to review and reflect on all activities /programs implemented during the year 2020.

The retreat gathered all 35 staffs at the headquarter and in the branches in the 6 provinces.



## TORBA PROVINCE

This year started with an importance emphasis on Covid19 activities. Under the financial assistance from Qatar Red Cross, Health team in the branches were deployed across the country, even as to reach the remotest islands of Torres group up north of Torba Province (close to Solomon island borders). Awarenesses were targeting communities including schools.



200 People were reached in Torres islands, and over 562 pupils in Banks group.

At the branch in Sola, Communication network has been very challenging, however thanks to Qatar Red Cross that enabled the installation of a satellite dish that is now up and running.



Satellite dish installed at the Red Cross Branch office in

Red Cross office in Torba province is managed by our branch Officer who is also originated from the province itself. Have you met him before?.. Mr **Keith DAVID** is serving as a Branch Officer in Vanualava since 2015 till today, his role is to improve the lives of the most vulnerable. His role is to coordinate branch disaster risk reduction, preparedness, response and recovery activities, and manage First aid programmes; he also established effective working relationship with Torba Provincial Governments and community stakeholders, that resulted as member of Torba Technical Advisory Committee, and Provincial Water Committee. He is available on

Tel: 7777710

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**Keith DAVID**



# SANMA PROVINCE

## PROGRAM

Sanma branch started its yearly activities with distribution of gardening tools donated by Food Agriculture Organization to affected villages of West and East Island of Malo in Sanma Province. This was part of TC Harold recovery response coordinated by Vanuatu Red Cross Society. It was a 7 days response where 533 households were targeted.

During the same period, volunteers conducted Covid19 awareness in urban settlements and rural communities to remind people about best practices to protect themselves against covid19. Thanks to Qatar Red Cross to support VRCS in this Covid19 community mobilisation activity.

All of activities implemented in the branch are coordinated and managed by our very well known Branch Officer based in Luganville as a Pro active female leader of Red Cross, with 12 years of experiences in Disaster Operations; Ms **Shirley JOHNSON** from Emae island excels in her career as an Humanitarian worker. Her humbleness, dedication, and commitment have brought her courage and confidence to keep going. She can be reach on Tel:(+678) 73 41 992/53 32 341

Email: santoredcross@gmail.com

## ACTIVITY



A villager from Malo island received his gardening tools



Volunteers raising Covid19 awareness at Banban



**Shirley JOHNSON**

# MALAMPA PROVINCE

## PROGRAM

In this first quarter, the Malampa Branch activities kicked off with an emergency response to several communities Lingarak, Hatbol, Potintir and Barick in central island of Malekula, that were affected by flooding due to an ongoing heavy rain across the country. Affected households received basic assistance from the Branch office based at Lakatoro.

In the meantime, it was also a busy months for volunteers who got engaged from communities to communities to educate people in rural areas , including school children on how best to be protected against Covid19. Demonstrating 7 steps of handwashing was the key message relayed to schools children and thanks to our Branch Officer based at Lakatoro in Malekula.



Marie HARRY

## ACTIVITY



Distribution of Non Food Items to affected family



461 Children at Walla attending Covid19 awareness .

Ms **Marie HARRY** is from Pentecost, and she is managing all operation in the branch

She joined Red Cross as a Volunteer in 2018. With passion and commitment to all humanitarian activities led by VRCS she was appointed as Volunteer Representative in the National Board. Later she was hired as Youth & Volunteer officer. Based on her experiences ,in 2020, she has successfully taken up the responsibility of managing the Red Cross operations in the Branch of Malampa based at Lakatoro—Malekula Island.

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## PROGRAM

To overcome the on going challenge of communication network in many part of the islands, Penama Branch office based at Loltong-North Pentecost is fortunate to be equipped with a satellite dish to enable a flow of information exchanges and thanks to Qatar Red Cross that funded the purchase of the equipment's. The Branch have now access to internet.

People in 10 villages around the island of Pentecost were privileged to receive the visit from our volunteers who spent time to introduce the covid19 disease, its impact and how best people can protect themselves. Health volunteers were inducted on Covid19 key messages to be relayed to communities, including encouraging people particularly children in schools to wash hands by applying all the steps of clean hygiene. The Branch will soon host important project in the coming months, and it will be coordinated and managed by our Branch Officer. Have you met him before? Maybe not; Meet **Mr Noel GIHALA** from Pentecost whom you will always see him around Penama Province in any VRCS activities. After joining Red Cross as a Volunteer in 2019, Mr Gihiala is passionate about the work of Red Cross and decided to fully engaged as an employee by becoming the successful branch Officer of Penama Red Cross Branch in 2020.

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Email: gihialan@gmail.com

## ACTIVITY



Branch officer N. Gihiala deserved to smile as he is now connected by accessing internet.



Handwashing demonstration for children at school



Noel GIHALA



# SHEFA PROVINCE

## PROGRAM ACTIVITY

In a joint partnership with Oxfam, VRCS 20 volunteers were engaged by conducting registrations of beneficiaries, and distribution of E-Voucher to People living with Disability on Efate as part of TC Harold Livelihood recovery. The activity targeted urban and peri-urbans areas of Port Vila, as well as offshore islands. An orientation was held before deployment in the field, with an emphasis on policy compliances,



For the branch, a number of new volunteers were registered and 3 volunteers inductions were completed in this quarter, for respective groups of volunteers whom are already tasked for program activities. The introduction to the work of Red Cross, including 7 Fundamental Principles and the use of Emblem has been the highlight of the dissemination session.

Who else in Shefa Red Cross branch then Mrs **Emma MESAU** ! She is originated from Erromango/Paama and had previously worked in State owned Enterprise before she decided to join VRCS in 2019 as Branch Officer of the Shefa Branch. With lots of experiences and skills in Human Resource and Administration, Mrs Mesau has ben very energetic, decisive and perseverant in her leadership role as Senior Branch Officer. She had been heavily engaged with her volunteers in Shefa Health Covid19 program when the pandemic was declared in 2020.

If you wish to learn more about what Red Cross is doing at the provincial level, she is more than happy to assist if you contact her on:

Tel: (678) 71 01 463

Email:shefaredcross@gmail.com



Emma MESAU





# TAFEA PROVINCE

## PROGRAM ACTIVITY

Since the pandemic was declared last year, Vanuatu Ministry of Health has been very active with its Covid19 health sector Preparedness and Response plan with its partners like Vanuatu Red Cross Society that stepped up at the community level through its community mobilisation awareness. Volunteers went from village to village, schools to schools, teaching and reminding people about the importance to consider hygiene and hand washing as best practices to protect them from getting and spreading the Covid19. VRCS, and thanks to Qatar Red Cross, have now in place a reliable and effective internal communication to participate in reliable information-sharing to its branches as Covid19 becomes everyone business nowadays. The branch satellite is now fully operational at Isangel .

In the Branch one of the activity that has seen an important community engagement is the Participatory Approach for Safe Shelter Awareness \_ PASSA; that aims to build community capacity building in safe shelter to become more resilient . The program is piloted in the village of Lounahuru in Middle Bush -Tanna.

Tafea Branch has been identified as one of the branch that is very active, and this is because it has an energetic, dynamic, and a decisive Branch officer by the name of **Charley KICHIKICHI** from Futuna island. He has been leading the branch 2016 as branch officer, then 6 months he was given another role as TC Pam Recovery Supervisor for the period of October 2016 to September 2017. Mr Kichikichi continues to head the branch until today.





**welcome onboard!**

**Phillipa KALONTUS**  
Cash Transfer Field Team Lead



**Simon JACK**  
Health Assistant & Covid19 Support Officer



**Rebecca SAM**  
Covid19 Support Officer—Shefa Branch



**The Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement**

1. **Humanity** - prevent and alleviate human suffering
2. **Impartiality** - non-discrimination and proportionality
3. **Neutrality**-retain credibility by not taking sides
4. **Independence** - autonomy with respect to all powers
5. **Voluntary service** - disinterested relief movement
6. **Unity** - only one National Society per country
7. **Universality** - equal rights for all National Societies



Vanuatu Red Cross Society would like to acknowledge all of its Donors for their support :

International Committee of Red Cross  
 International Federation of Red Cross Red Crescent  
 Qatar Red Cross  
 Japan Red Cross  
 Australian Red Cross  
 Agence Francaise de Developpement  
 United States Aid  
 Food Agriculture organization

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